SU 426 TRANSCAUCASIA

631 As a result of the liquidation within the Russian SFSR of several
G autonomous units, which had been accused of collaboration with the
631 Germans and of traitorous activities during the Second World War, the Georgian SSR gained about 2,500 square miles of territory on the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus. It received the southern portion (1,200 square miles) of the abolished Karachay Autonomous Oblast, including the former capital of the oblast, Mikoyan-Shakhar (now renamed Klukhori), and the health resort of Teberda. It also gained the southwestern corner (300 square miles) of the former Balkar-Kabardinian (now Kabardinian) Autonomous SSR, including Mount El'brus, the highest peak of the Caucasus, as well as a 70-mile-long strip of about 1,000 square miles in the south of the former Chechen-Ingush Autonomous SSR. These transfers of territory from the Russian SFSR to the Georgian SSR took place in 1948.

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438* The economic importance of the Georgian SSR lies chiefly in its
316 manganese production, its petroleum-refining industry, and the growing
G of subtropical products, tobacco and vineyards.

438 Manganese ore is mined at Chiatura, site of the second largest manga-
316 nese reserves in the world. Part of the production is utilized in the ferro-manganese works of Zestafoni, the first heavy metallurgical installation of the republic, which was based on the power from the Rion hydroelectric station. The rest is exported to other parts of the USSR and abroad via the port of Poti, on the Black Sea. The old coal mines of Tkibuli, west of Chiatura, yield a kind of brown coal, while the Tkvarcheli mines, developed before the Second World War in the Abkhaz Autonomous SSR, supply the growing metallurgical industry of Georgia with good-quality coking coal. Recently other brown-coal mines have been developed near Akhaltsikhe. Petroleum deposits in the Shiraki steppe, in the eastern part of the republic, are being increasingly exploited. The raw fuel is processed in the cracking plant of Mirzaani, located near the fields. Barite deposits near Kutaisi form the basis of an important chemical industry in that city and make that section of Georgia one of the main
SU producers of that mineral in the USSR.

327 Heavy industry in the Georgian SSR included previously the ferro-
G manganese works of Zestafoni and machinery works in Tbilisi and
327 Kutaisi. It is being developed to a considerable degree during the current Five-Year Plan by the construction of the first Transcaucasian iron and steel mills at Rustavi, on the Kura River, southeast of Tbilisi. Rustavi, now under construction, lies on the right bank of the river, and the plant, which will be supplied from the Dashkesan iron mines, on the opposite

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 Rl Soviet Union Rl
Georgia RFL

wool weaving), tanning, and the manufacturing of shoes and clothing. Food processing industries are also important. Tbilisi receives its power from the Zemo-Avchala hydroelectric station (commonly known as *Zages*), located a few miles upstream on the Kura River. It is the site of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, a university, and many technical and scientific institutions. The city extends north and south in the Kura valley. The oldest central part, with narrow, crooked alleys and a typically Asiatic appearance, lies near sulphur springs which have long been used in curative baths. To the north and the south of the central portion extend the modern industrial and residential sections of the capital, including the largest plants and marshaling yards.

Kutaisi, on the Rion River, just above the Rion hydroelectric station, is the largest city and industrial center of Western Georgia, served by a rail spur, highways, and airlines. It manufactures automobile trucks, coal-mining machinery, chemicals (sulphuric acid, lithopone), textiles, and leather goods. Its industrial development received considerable impetus during the post-war Five-Year Plan. The ancient capital of Imeretia, the city was officially called Kutais until 1936.

Rustavi, the newest city of the Georgian SSR and destined to become the fourth largest center of the republic, with an estimated population of 50,000, developed after 1943 and was made a city in 1948. It is the seat of the Transcaucasian steel industry, with a full metallurgical production cycle. Situated southeast of Tbilisi, it consists of a residential right-bank section and an industrial left-bank portion linked by a bridge of the Kura River.

Chiatura (formerly spelled Chiatury), on a rail spur northeast of Kutaisi, is one of the largest manganese-mining centers of the world. Having been exploited since 1879, the mines are now powered by the Rion hydroelectric plant. The manganese supplies the Zestafoni ferromanganese works and is shipped via the Black Sea ports of Poti and Batumi.

Poti, an important port on the Black Sea, in the Kolkhida lowland, acts chiefly as an outlet for the Chiatura manganese mines. It ships also lumber, corn, and wine.

Gori is a fruit-canning and cotton-milling town and the birthplace of Stalin.